

PLASTIC SHOPPING BAG WITH PROMOTIONAL STRIP AD

Related Application

5 The instant application is a Divisional application of Application Serial No. 10/346,341 that is currently pending, which is a Continuation of Application Serial No. 09/897,639 now abandoned. No new matter has been added.

Field of the Invention

10 This invention relates to the field of plastic bags of the type employed by retailers in packing food items and other merchandise, with particular application to bags that are unsealed or partially sealed along their top edges and include a promotional strip attached to the bag.

Background of the Invention

 In our prior United States Patent No. 5,882,118 and its divisional method Patent No. 6,068,584, we disclosed and claimed the attachment of advertising strips to T-shirt bags and a method for accomplishing such attachments during the course of fabricating such bags from extruded plastic tubing. Because the bags disclosed in our prior patent
20 were heat-sealed along both their bottom and top edges, it was possible simultaneously to heat seal the ends of advertising strips to be attached to the bag along both the top and lower edges of such strips. These strips could be disposed either within the gussets of the bags or along an outside edge.

 Attachment of advertising strips in the manner disclosed in our prior patents,
25 however, cannot be accomplished where the top edges of the bag, such as those

sometimes referred to as handle bags, flat bags and merchandise bags are left open at their top edges in order to enable merchandise to be placed in the bag. One type of such bags may have a central handle in contrast to the side handles of the T-shirt bags. When such open top edge bags are being produced, it is not possible to drop heating elements on each side of the cutting blade, transversely along the bag's division line and simultaneously heat seal the bottom of one bag and the top of the adjacent bag with the upper end of the advertising strip since the top edges of each bag must remain open. If it is, therefore, desired to provide open top edge bags with advertising strips, it is necessary to find some means and/or method for attaching the upper end of the advertising strip to the sides of one or both of the bag walls.

When advertising strips are attached to shopping bags there is sometimes a problem of movement of the strips with respect to the bags when the strips are secured only at the strip ends. For this reason it is necessary to develop methods for securing the strip to the bag walls between the strip ends.

Summary of the Invention

(1) A plastic shopping bag with promotional strip ad may be formed from the following components. A pair of registering front and back walls is provided. The walls are secured together along their side and bottom edges and open across at least a portion of their top edges. The walls, when pulled apart from each other, defining a space into which articles may be placed. At least one of the secured together side edges is gusseted.

A plastic strip is located within the gusset. The strip has a first end and a second end and is of a length not greater than a length of the gusseted side edge. The first end of

the strip is heat sealed to the bottom edges of the bag walls and the second end of the strip is adhered in the vicinity of the top edges of the bag walls. A portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to a remainder of the strip.

(2) In a variant of the invention the portion of the strip between its first and
5 second ends is removably attached to the remainder of the strip with at least two perforation lines.

(3) In another variation, promotional material is printed upon at least an upper surface or a lower surface of the portion of the strip between its first and second ends that is removably attached to the remainder of the strip.

10 (4) In still another variant, a plastic strip is located along one side of a gusset. The strip has a first end and a second end and is of a length not greater than a length of a gusseted side edge. The first end of the strip is heat sealed to the bottom edges of the bag walls and the second end of the strip is adhered in the vicinity of the top edges of the bag walls. A portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to a
15 remainder of the strip.

(5) In a variant of the invention the portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to the remainder of the strip with at least two perforation lines.

(6) In another variation, promotional material is printed upon at least an upper
20 surface or a lower surface of the portion of the strip between its first and second ends that is removably attached to the remainder of the strip.

(7) In a further variant, a plastic strip is located within a gusset. The strip has a first end and a second end and is of a length not greater than a length of a gusseted side

edge. The first end of the strip is adhered adjacent the bottom edges of the bag walls and the second end of the strip is adhered in the vicinity of the top edges of the bag walls. A portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to a remainder of the strip.

5 (8) In a variant of the invention the portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to the remainder of the strip with at least two perforation lines.

 (9) In another variation, promotional material is printed upon at least an upper surface or a lower surface of the portion of the strip between its first and second ends that
10 is removably attached to the remainder of the strip.

 (10) In still a further variant, a plastic strip is located along one side of a gusset. The strip has a first end and a second end and is of a length not greater than a length of a gusseted side edge. The first end of the strip is adhered adjacent the bottom edges of the bag walls and the second end of the strip is adhered in the vicinity of the top edges of the
15 bag walls. A portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to a remainder of the strip.

 (11) In a variant of the invention the portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to the remainder of the strip with at least two perforation lines.

20 (12) In another variation, promotional material is printed upon at least an upper surface or a lower surface of the portion of the strip between its first and second ends that is removably attached to the remainder of the strip.

(13) In yet a further variant of the invention, a plastic strip is located upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges. The strip has a first end and a second end and is of a length not greater than the length of the walls. The first end of the strip is heat sealed to the bottom edges of the bag walls and the second end of the strip is
5 adhered in the vicinity of the top edges of the bag walls. A portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to a remainder of the strip.

(14) In a variant of the invention the portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to the remainder of the strip with at least two perforation lines.

10 (15) In another variation, promotional material is printed upon at least an upper surface or a lower surface of the portion of the strip between its first and second ends that is removably attached to the remainder of the strip.

(16) In another variant, a plastic strip is located upon at least one of front and back walls between the side edges. The strip has a first end and a second end and is of a
15 length not greater than the length of the walls. The first end of the strip is adhered adjacent the bottom edges of the bag walls and the second end of the strip is adhered in the vicinity of the upper edges of the bag walls. A portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to a remainder of the strip.

(17) In a variant of the invention the portion of the strip between its first and
20 second ends is removably attached to the remainder of the strip with at least two perforation lines.

(18) In another variation, promotional material is printed upon at least an upper surface or a lower surface of the portion of the strip between its first and second ends that is removably attached to the remainder of the strip.

(19) In still another variant, the secured together first and second side edges are
5 folded inwardly from the front and back walls to form a pair of gussets. The gussets have top and bottom edges. The top edges of the front wall, the back wall, and the gussets terminate in an upper seam. The bottom edges of the front wall, the back wall, and the gussets terminate in a lower seam. The lower seam is perpendicular to the side edges of the front and back walls.

10 A U-shaped cut-out is located in an upper portion of the bag. The cut-out commences at a first point along the upper seam spaced inwardly from the first side edge. The cut-out extends to a second point along the upper seam spaced inwardly from the second side edge. The cut-out extends downwardly toward the lower seam, forming an open mouth and a pair of bag handles.

15 A plastic strip is located within at least one gusset. The strip has a first end and a second end and is of a length not greater than the length of the gusset. The first end of the strip is heat sealed to the lower seam and the second end of the strip is heat sealed to the upper seam. The strip is adhered to the gusset between the first end and the second end of the strip. A portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably
20 attached to a remainder of the strip.

(20) In a variant of the invention the portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to the remainder of the strip with at least two perforation lines.

(21) In another variation, promotional material is printed upon at least an upper surface or a lower surface of the portion of the strip between its first and second ends that is removably attached to the remainder of the strip.

(22) In a final variant, a plastic strip is located upon at least one of the front and back walls above at least one gusset. The strip has a first end and a second end and is of a length not greater than the length of the gusset. The first end of the strip is heat sealed to the lower seam and the second end of the strip is heat sealed to the upper seam. The strip is adhered to one of the front and back walls above at least one gusset between the first end and the second end of the strip. A portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to a remainder of the strip.

(23) In a variant of the invention the portion of the strip between its first and second ends is removably attached to the remainder of the strip with at least two perforation lines.

(24) In another variation, promotional material is printed upon at least an upper surface or a lower surface of the portion of the strip between its first and second ends that is removably attached to the remainder of the strip.

An apparatus for fabricating plastic shopping bags, is provided. Each of the bags has closed side and bottom edges. At least one side edge is gusseted. The bag has an open top edge. The gusseted side edge includes an upper wall portion and a lower wall portion in abutment with each other. A plastic strip is located between the upper and lower wall portions of the gusseted side edge.

The apparatus includes means for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing that has a plastic strip located in the gusset, in a horizontal plane into a cutting

station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks. A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at the cutting station.

The tubing is cut at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the
5 series of blanks of a predetermined length. The blade is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge. The heating element serves to
10 heat seal the cut edge of the tubing including its gusset and enclosed plastic strip portion on the first side of the blade.

A vacuum element is located on the blade's second side also adjacent the cutting edge and above the upper wall portion of the gusseted side edge. The vacuum element, when the blade is lowered to its second position, extends to at least one gusset of the
15 tubing. The vacuum element is located adjacent the portion of the blade edge which, upon the blade being lowered to its second position, cuts through the gusset.

An adhesive injector is located adjacent the side edge of the blade and proximate to the portion of the blade edge carrying the vacuum element. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the
20 tubing at the pre-selected points. Means are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element when the blade is moved to its second position to cut the tubing and abutting plastic strip, at which instant the adjacent area of the upper wall portion of the gusset is momentarily raised from its abutment with the plastic strip.

Means are provided for activating the adhesive injector momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive between the raised upper wall portion of the gusset and the plastic strip when the vacuum element momentarily lifts the upper wall portion. Means located adjacent the first side of the blade and in line with the raised portion of the gusset are provided, to compress the raised area of the gusset back to the plane of the remaining portion of the cut blank and against the plastic strip.

When the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade, and the vacuum element on the second side of the blade momentarily lifts an area of the upper wall portion of the gusset adjacent the second side of the blade. The adhesive injector then discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive between the raised area of the upper wall portion of the gusset and the cut end of the plastic strip, following which, upon the raising of the blade to its first position, the adhesive receiving upper edge of the gusset is pressed back down against the cut end of the plastic strip to the plane of the remainder of the cut blank.

In a variant of the apparatus, designed for fabricating plastic bags each having an open top edge, at least one gusseted side edge and a plastic strip located along one side of the gusseted side edge, the apparatus includes means for moving flattened plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks. The tubing is gusseted along at least one side edge and has a plastic strip located along one side of the gusset of the side edge.

A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge and a vacuum element on its second side adjacent the cutting edge.

The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing including its gusset and the plastic strip located along one side of the gusseted side edge on the first side of the blade. The vacuum element, when the blade is lowered to its second position, extends to at least one gusset of the tubing. The vacuum element is located adjacent the portion of the blade edge which, upon the blade being lowered to its second position, cuts through the gusset and abutting plastic strip.

An adhesive injector is located adjacent the side edge of the blade and proximate to the portion of the blade edge carrying the vacuum element. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points. Means are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element when the blade is moved to its second position to cut the tubing and abutting plastic strip, at which instant the cut end of the plastic strip is momentarily raised from the side edge of the gusset.

Means are provided for activating the adhesive injector momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive between the raised plastic strip and the side of the gusset when the vacuum element raises the strip. Means are provided adjacent the first

side of the blade and in line with the raised portion of the strip, to compress the raised upper cut end of the strip to the plane of the cut blank.

When the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing and the plastic strip on the first side of the blade. Next the vacuum element on the second side of the blade momentarily raises the cut end of the plastic strip adjacent the second side of the blade. At this instant, the adhesive injector discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive between the raised cut end of the strip and the side of the gusset, following which, upon the lifting of the blade to its first position, the adhesive receiving cut end of the plastic strip is pressed back down to the plane of the cut blank.

Another variant of the apparatus, is designed for fabricating plastic shopping bags. Each of the bags has closed side and bottom edges, at least one gusseted side edge, and an open top edge. The gusseted side edge includes an upper wall portion and a lower wall portion in abutment with each other, and a plastic strip located between the upper and lower wall portions of the gusseted side edge.

The apparatus includes means for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks. A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at the cutting station at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks of a predetermined length. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and

a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge.

The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing including its gusset on the first side of the blade. A vacuum element is located on its second side also
5 adjacent the cutting edge and above the upper wall portion of the gusseted side edge. The vacuum element, when the blade is lowered to its second position, extends to the gusset of the tubing. The vacuum element is located adjacent the portion of the blade edge which, upon the blade being lowered to its second position, cuts through the tubing. An adhesive injector is located adjacent the side edge of the blade and proximate to the
10 portion of the blade edge carrying the vacuum element.

Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points. Means are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element when the blade is moved to its second position to cut the tubing at which instant the adjacent area of the upper wall portion of
15 the gusset is momentarily raised from its abutment with the lower wall portion of the gusset.

Means are provided for inserting a plastic strip of predetermined length into the gusset. Means are provided for activating the adhesive injector momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive in at least two locations between the raised upper wall
20 portion of the gusset and the plastic strip when the vacuum element momentarily lifts the upper wall portion. Means are provided adjacent the first side of the blade and in line with the raised upper portion of the gusset, to compress the raised area of the gusset back to the plane of the remaining portion of the cut blank and against the plastic strip.

When the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade, and the vacuum element on the second side of the blade momentarily lifts an area of the upper portion of the gusset adjacent the second side of the blade, a plastic strip of predetermined length is inserted into the gusset and the adhesive injector discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive between the raised area of the portion of the gusset and at least two locations on the plastic strip. Next, upon the raising of the blade to its first position, the adhesive receiving upper edge of the gusset is pressed back down against the plastic strip to the plane of the remainder of the cut blank.

Yet another variant of the apparatus, is designed for fabricating plastic bags each having an open top edge, at least one gusseted side edge and a plastic strip located along one side of the gusseted side edge. The apparatus includes means for moving flattened plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks. The tubing is gusseted along at least one side edge.

A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge. The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing including its gusset on the first side of the blade.

An adhesive injector is located adjacent the side edge of the blade. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points. Means are provided for activating the adhesive injector momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive at at least
5 two locations along one side of the gusseted side edge of the bag blank. Means are provided for locating a plastic strip of a predetermined length along one side of the gusseted side edge of the bag blank over the discharged adhesive. Means are provided adjacent the first side of the blade and in line with the plastic strip, to compress the strip to the gusseted side edge of the bag blank.

10 When the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade. Next, the adhesive injector discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive at at least two locations along one side of the gusseted side edge of the bag blank. Next, a plastic strip of a predetermined length is located along one side of the
15 gusseted side edge of the bag blank over the discharged adhesive, and the plastic strip is compressed to the gusseted side edge of the bag blank.

Yet another variant of the apparatus, is designed for fabricating plastic bags each having an open top edge and a plastic strip disposed upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges. The apparatus includes means for moving flattened
20 plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks. The tubing has a plastic strip disposed upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges.

A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating
5 element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge and a vacuum element on its second side adjacent the cutting edge. The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing and the plastic strip disposed upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges on the first side of the blade.

10 The vacuum element, when the blade is lowered to its second position, extends to the side edges of the tubing. The vacuum element is located adjacent the portion of the blade edge which, upon the blade being lowered to its second position, cuts through the tubing and abutting plastic strip. An adhesive injector is located adjacent the side edge of the blade and proximate to the portion of the blade edge carrying the vacuum element.
15 Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points.

Means are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element when the blade is moved to its second position to cut the tubing and abutting plastic strip, at which instant the cut end of the plastic strip is momentarily raised from either of the front and
20 back walls. Means are provided for activating the adhesive injector momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive between the raised plastic strip and either of the front and back walls when the vacuum element raises the strip. Means are provided

adjacent the first side of the blade and in line with the raised portion of the strip, to compress the raised upper cut end of the strip to the plane of the cut blank.

When the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing and the plastic strip on the first side of the blade, and the vacuum element on the second side of the blade momentarily raises the cut end of the plastic strip adjacent the second side of the blade. At this instant, the adhesive injector discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive between the raised cut end of the strip and either of the front and back walls. Next, upon the lifting of the blade to its first position, the adhesive receiving cut end of the plastic strip is pressed back down to the plane of the cut blank.

Still another variant of the apparatus, is designed for fabricating plastic bags each having an open top edge and a plastic strip upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges. The apparatus includes means for moving flattened plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks.

A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge.

The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade. An adhesive injector is located adjacent the side edge of the blade. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points. Means are provided for activating the
5 adhesive injector momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive at at least two locations upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges of the bag blank.

Means are provided for locating a plastic strip of a predetermined length upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges of the bag blank over the
10 discharged adhesive. Means are provided adjacent the first side of the blade and in line with the plastic strip, to compress the strip to either of the front and back walls of the bag blank.

When the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing on the
15 first side of the blade. Next, the adhesive injector discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive at at least two locations upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges of the bag blank. Next, a plastic strip of a predetermined length is located upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges of the bag blank over the discharged adhesive. The plastic strip is then compressed to the wall of the bag
20 blank.

A further variant of the apparatus, is designed for fabricating plastic bags each having closed side and bottom edges, first and second side gussets, a partially open top edge, and a pair of bag handles terminating at the top edge. The gussets are comprised of

an upper wall portion and a lower wall portion in abutment with each other. A plastic strip is located between the upper and lower wall portions of at least one gusset.

The apparatus includes means for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing having a plastic strip disposed in at least one of the gussets, in a horizontal plane
5 into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks.

A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at the cutting station at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks of a predetermined length. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second
10 lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries first and second heating elements on its first and second sides adjacent the cutting edge. The heating elements serve to heat seal the cut bottom and top edges of the bag including its gussets and enclosed plastic strip on
15 the first and second sides of the blade.

A vacuum element is located on the second side of the blade and spaced from the second heating element and above the upper wall portion of the gusseted side edge. The vacuum element, when the blade is lowered to its second position, extends to at least one gusset of the tubing. An adhesive injector is located adjacent the side edge of the blade
20 and proximate to the portion of the blade edge carrying the vacuum element. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points.

Means are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element when the blade is moved to its second position to cut the tubing and abutting plastic strip, at which instant the adjacent area of the upper wall portion of the gusset is momentarily raised from its abutment with the plastic strip. Means are provided for activating the adhesive injector momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive in at least two locations between the raised upper wall portion of the gusset and the plastic strip when the vacuum element momentarily lifts the upper wall portion. Means are provided adjacent the first side of the blade and in line with the raised upper portion of the gusset, to compress the raised area of the gusset back to the plane of the remaining portion of the cut blank and against the plastic strip.

Means are provided for cutting a U-shaped cut-out commencing at the sealed top edge of the bag blank and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge of the blank.

When the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating elements on the first and second sides of the blade heat seal the cut bottom and top edges of the bag and the plastic strip on the first and second sides of the blade, and the vacuum element on the second side of the blade momentarily lifts an area of the upper portion of the gusset spaced from the second side of the blade. The adhesive injector then discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive in at least two locations between the raised area of the upper portion of the gusset and a portion of the plastic strip between its first and second ends. Next, upon the raising of the blade to its first position, the raised upper portion of the gusset is pressed back down against the plastic strip to the plane of the cut blank, a U-shaped cut-out is then cut in the bag blank commencing at the sealed

top edge and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge, thus yielding an open mouth and a pair of bag handles.

Another variant of the apparatus, is designed for fabricating plastic bags each having front and rear outer surfaces, closed side and bottom edges, first and second side
5 gussets, a partially open top edge, and a pair of bag handles terminating at the top edge. The gussets are comprised of an upper wall portion and a lower wall portion in abutment with each other. A plastic strip disposed upon at least one of the front and rear outer surfaces above at least one gusset.

The apparatus includes means for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic
10 tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The tubing has a plastic strip located upon at least one of the front and rear outer surfaces above at least one gusset. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks.

A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at the cutting station at pre-
15 selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks of a predetermined length. The blade is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries first and second heating elements on its
20 first and second sides adjacent the cutting edge. The heating elements serve to heat seal the cut bottom and top edges of the bag including its gussets and the plastic strip on the first and second sides of the blade.

A vacuum element is located on the second side of the blade and spaced from the second heating element and above the upper wall portion of the gusseted side edge. The vacuum element, when the blade is lowered to its second position, extending to at least one gusset of the tubing. An adhesive injector is located adjacent the side edge of the blade and proximate to the portion of the blade carrying the vacuum element. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points. Means are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element when the blade is moved to its second position to cut the tubing and abutting plastic strip. At this instant a portion of the plastic strip disposed above the gusset is momentarily raised from its abutment with either of the front and rear outer surfaces.

Means are provided for activating the adhesive injector momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive in at least two locations between the raised portion of the plastic strip and either of the front and rear outer surfaces when the vacuum element momentarily lifts the portion of the plastic strip. Means are provided adjacent the first side of the blade and in line with the gusset, to compress the raised portion of the plastic strip back to the plane of the cut blank. Means are provided for cutting a U-shaped cut-out commencing at the sealed top edge of the bag and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge of the bag.

When the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating elements on the first and second sides of the blade heat seal the cut bottom and top edges of the bag and the plastic strip on the first and second sides of the blade. Next, the vacuum element on the second side of the blade momentarily lifts a portion of the

plastic strip spaced from the second side of the blade, and the adhesive injector discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive in at least two locations between the raised portion of the plastic strip between its first and second end and either of the front and rear outer surfaces. Next, upon the raising of the blade to its first position, the raised portion of the plastic strip is pressed back down to the plane of the cut blank, a U-shaped cut-out is then cut in the bag blank commencing at the sealed top edge and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge, thus yielding an open mouth and a pair of bag handles.

Still another variant of the apparatus is designed for fabricating plastic shopping bags each having closed side and bottom edges, at least one gusseted side edge, and an open top edge. The at least one gusseted side edge is comprised of an upper wall portion and a lower wall portion in abutment with each other, and a plastic strip located between the upper and lower wall portions of the gusseted side edge.

The apparatus includes a roll of plastic strip material. The strip material has parallel first and second side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand. Means are provided for unrolling the roll of plastic strip material from the unwind stand. A cold adhesive applicator is provided. The applicator is located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive between the first and second side edges of the plastic strip material. Means are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator as the plastic strip material is unrolled from the unwind stand.

Means are provided for opening a gusset in extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing and feeding the plastic strip material with applied cold adhesive into the gusset. Means are provided for closing the gusset with the plastic strip material located

therein and compressing the plastic strip material against the upper wall portion and the lower wall portion of the gusset, thereby adhering the strip material to the upper or lower wall portions.

Means are provided for moving the plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks. A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at the cutting station at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks of a predetermined length. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade has a cutting edge and carries a heating element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge.

The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing including its gusset and enclosed plastic strip material on the first side of the blade. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points.

When the plastic strip material is located in the opened gusset, the gusset is then closed and the upper and lower wall portions compressed against the strip material. The blade is then brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade, leaving an openable bag mouth on the second side of the blade. The plastic strip material will thus be heat sealed into the bottom edge of the bag and the strip material will be adhered within the gusset.

A further variant of the apparatus is designed for fabricating plastic bags, each having an open top edge, at least one gusseted side edge and a plastic strip located along one side of the gusseted side edge. The apparatus includes a roll of plastic strip material, the strip material has parallel first and second side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand. Means are provided for unrolling the roll of plastic strip material from the unwind stand. A cold adhesive applicator is provided. The applicator is located to apply a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive between the first and second side edges of the plastic strip material. Means are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator as the plastic strip material is unrolled from the unwind stand.

Means are provided for locating the plastic strip material with applied cold adhesive along one side of a gusseted side edge of extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing. Means are provided for compressing the plastic strip material against the tubing thereby adhering the strip material to the tubing adjacent the gusseted side edge. Means are provided for moving flattened plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks.

A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks. The blade is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge. The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing including its gusset and the plastic strip material

located along one side of the gusseted side edge on the first side of the blade. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points.

When the plastic strip material is located along one side of the gusseted side edge and the plastic strip material is compressed against the tubing along one side of the gusseted side edge and the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade, leaving an openable bag mouth on the second side of the blade, the plastic strip material will be heat sealed into the bottom edge of the bag and the strip material will be adhered above the gusset.

Yet another variant of the apparatus is designed for fabricating plastic shopping bags each having closed side and bottom edges, at least one gusseted side edge, and an open top edge. The at least one gusseted side edge is comprised of an upper wall portion and a lower wall portion in abutment with each other, with a plastic strip located between the upper and lower wall portions of the gusseted side edge. The apparatus includes a roll of plastic strip material. The strip material has parallel first and second side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand. Means are provided for unrolling the roll of plastic strip material from the unwind stand. A cold adhesive applicator is provided. The applicator is located to apply a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive between the first and second side edges of the plastic strip material. Means are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator as the plastic strip material is unrolled from the unwind stand.

Means are provided for opening a gusset in extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing and inserting plastic strip material of a predetermined length with applied cold adhesive into the gusset. Means are provided for closing the gusset with the plastic strip material located therein and compressing the plastic strip material against the upper wall portion and the lower wall portion of the gusset, thereby adhering the strip material to either of the upper and lower wall portions.

Means are provided for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks. A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at the cutting station at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks of a predetermined length. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade has a cutting edge and carries a heating element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge.

The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing including its gusset on the first side of the blade. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points. When the predetermined length of plastic strip material is located in the opened gusset and the gusset is then closed and the upper and lower wall portions compressed against the strip material and the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of

the tubing on the first side of the blade, leaving an openable bag mouth on the second side of the blade, the plastic strip material will be adhered within the gusset.

Yet a further apparatus is designed for fabricating plastic bags each having an open top edge, at least one gusseted side edge and a plastic strip located along one side of

5 the gusseted side edge. The apparatus includes a roll of plastic strip material. The strip material has parallel first and second side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand.

Means are provided for unrolling the roll of plastic strip material from the unwind stand.

A cold adhesive applicator is provided. The applicator is located to apply either a

continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive between the first and second side
10 edges of the plastic strip material. Means are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator as the plastic strip material is unrolled from the unwind stand.

Means are provided for locating plastic strip material of a predetermined length with applied cold adhesive along one side of a gusseted side edge of extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing. Means are provided for compressing the plastic strip

15 material against the tubing thereby adhering the strip material adjacent the gusseted side edge. Means are provided for moving flattened plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks. The tubing is gusseted along at least one side edge.

20 A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The

blade has a first side and a second side, the blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge. The heating element serving to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing including its gusset on the first side of the blade.

When the plastic strip material is located along one side of the gusseted side edge
5 and the plastic strip material is compressed against the tubing and the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade, leaving an openable bag mouth on the second side of the blade, the plastic strip material will be adhered above the gusset.

10 Still a further variant of an apparatus is designed for fabricating plastic bags each having an open top edge and a plastic strip located upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges. The apparatus includes a roll of plastic strip material. The strip material has parallel first and second side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand. Means are provided for unrolling the roll of plastic strip material from the unwind stand.
15 A cold adhesive applicator is provided. The applicator is located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive between the first and second side edges of the plastic strip material. Means are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator as the plastic strip material is unrolled from the unwind stand. Means are provided for locating plastic strip material with applied cold adhesive upon either of front
20 and back walls and between side edges of extruded flattened plastic tubing. Means are provided for compressing the plastic strip material against either the front or back walls thereby adhering the strip material to either of the walls.

Means are provided for moving flattened plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks. The tubing has a plastic strip located upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges.

5 A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks. The blade is reciprocable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating
10 element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge.

The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing and the plastic strip material located upon at least one of the front and back walls between the side edges on the first side of the blade. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points.

15 When the plastic strip material is located upon either of the front and back walls between the side edges of the tubing and the plastic strip material is compressed against the tubing and the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade, leaving an openable bag mouth on the second side of the blade, the
20 plastic strip material will be heat sealed into the bottom edge of the bag and the strip material will be adhered to either of the front and back walls.

Another variant of an apparatus is designed for fabricating plastic bags each having an open top edge and a plastic strip upon at least one of the front and back walls

between the side edges. The apparatus includes a roll of plastic strip material. The strip material has parallel first and second side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand.

Means are provided for unrolling the roll of plastic strip material from the unwind stand.

A cold adhesive applicator is provided. The applicator is located to apply either a

5 continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive between the first and second side edges of the plastic strip material. Means for activating the cold adhesive applicator as the plastic strip material is unrolled from the unwind stand.

Means are provided for locating plastic strip material of a predetermined length with applied cold adhesive upon either front or back walls and between side edges of
10 extruded flattened plastic tubing. Means are provided for compressing the plastic strip material against either the front or back walls thereby adhering the strip material to either of the walls. Means are provided for moving flattened plastic tubing in a horizontal plane into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks.

15 A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks. The blade is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries a heating
20 element on its first side adjacent the cutting edge. The heating element serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade.

When the plastic strip material is located upon either of the front and back walls between the side edges and the plastic strip material is compressed against the tubing and

the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating element on the first side of the blade heat-seals the cut edge of the tubing on the first side of the blade, leaving an openable bag mouth on the second side of the blade, the plastic strip material will be adhered to either of the front and back walls.

5 Still another variant of an apparatus is designed for fabricating plastic shopping bags each having closed side and bottom edges, first and second side gussets, a partially open top edge, and a pair of bag handles terminating at the top edge. The gussets are comprised of an upper wall portion and a lower wall portion in abutment with each other. A plastic strip is located between the upper and lower wall portions of at least one gusset.

10 The apparatus includes a roll of plastic strip material. The strip material has parallel first and second side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand. Means are provided for unrolling the roll of plastic strip material from the unwind stand. A cold adhesive applicator is provided. The applicator is located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive between the first and second side edges of the
15 plastic strip material. Means are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator as the plastic strip material is unrolled from the unwind stand. Means are provided for opening a gusset in extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing and feeding the plastic strip material with applied cold adhesive into the gusset. Means are provided for closing the gusset with the plastic strip material located therein and compressing the plastic strip
20 material against the upper wall portion and the lower wall portion of the gusset, thereby adhering the strip material to either of the upper and lower wall portions.

Means are provided for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing having plastic strip material located in at least one of the gussets, in a horizontal plane

into a cutting station. The station has a horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks.

A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at the cutting station at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks of a predetermined length. The blade is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries first and second heating elements on its first and second sides adjacent the cutting edge.

The heating elements serve to heat seal the cut bottom and top edges of the bag including its gussets and enclosed plastic strip material on the first and second sides of the blade. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points. Means are provided for cutting a U-shaped cut-out commencing at the sealed top edge of the bag blank and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge of the blank.

When the plastic strip material is located in the opened gusset and the gusset is then closed and the upper and lower wall portions compressed against the strip material and when the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating elements on the first and second sides of the blade heat seal the cut bottom and top edges of the bag and the plastic strip on the first and second sides of the blade, the plastic strip material will be heat sealed into the top and bottom edges of the bag and the strip material will be adhered within the gusset, a U-shaped cut-out is then cut in the bag

blank commencing at the sealed top edge and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge, thus yielding an open mouth and a pair of bag handles.

A final variant of an apparatus is designed for fabricating plastic shopping bags each having front and rear outer surfaces, closed side and bottom edges, first and second
5 side gussets, a partially open top edge, and a pair of bag handles terminating at the top edge. The gussets are comprised of an upper wall portion and a lower wall portion in abutment with each other, and a plastic strip located upon at least one of the front and rear outer surfaces above at least one gusset.

The apparatus includes a roll of plastic strip material. The strip material has
10 parallel first and second side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand. Means are provided for unrolling the roll of plastic strip material from the unwind stand. A cold adhesive applicator is provided. The applicator is located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive between the first and second side edges of the plastic strip material. Means are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator as
15 the plastic strip material is unrolled from the unwind stand.

Means are provided for locating the plastic strip material with applied cold adhesive along one side of a gusseted side edge of extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing. Means are provided for compressing the plastic strip material against the tubing thereby adhering the strip material adjacent the gusseted side edge.

20 Means are provided for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing having plastic strip material located upon at least one of the front and rear outer surfaces above at least one gusset, in a horizontal plane into a cutting station, the station having a

horizontal planar blade receiving area over which the flattened tubing is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks.

A blade is provided for cutting the tubing transversely at the cutting station at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks of a predetermined
5 length. The blade is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position, and a second lower cutting position on the planar blade receiving area. The blade is of a length at least as great as the width of the gusseted tubing. The blade has a first side and a second side. The blade further has a cutting edge and carries first and second heating elements on its first and second sides adjacent the cutting edge. The heating elements serves to heat-seal
10 the cut bottom and top edges of the bag including its gussets and the plastic strip material on the first and second sides of the blade. Means are provided for reciprocating the blade between the first and second positions to effect cutting of the tubing at the pre-selected points.

Means are provided for cutting a U-shaped cut-out commencing at the sealed top
15 edge of the bag blank and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge of the blank. When the plastic strip material is located above the gusset and the plastic strip material is then compressed against the tubing and when the blade is brought down against the tubing to cut it transversely, the heating elements on the first and second sides of the blade heat seal the cut bottom and top edges of the bag and the plastic strip material on
20 the first and second sides of the blade, the plastic strip material will be heat sealed into the top and bottom edges of the bag and the strip material will be adhered above the gusset, a U-shaped cut-out is then cut in the bag blank commencing at the sealed top

edge and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge, thus yielding an open mouth and a pair of bag handles.

5

Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an open topped bag having an advertising or coupon strip heat sealed to the lower seam of the bag with the removably attached coupons disposed within a gusset along one side of the bag;

10

Figure 1A is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 1A-1A of **Figure 1**;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of an open topped bag having an advertising or coupon strip, illustrating advertising on the coupons, heat sealed to the lower seam of the bag with the removably attached coupons disposed on top of a gusset along one side of the bag;

15

Figure 2A is a perspective view of the **Figure 2** bag illustrating several detached coupons and the strip ends attached to the bag;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of an open topped bag having an advertising or coupon strip with removably attached coupons adhered within a gusset along one side of the bag;

20

Figure 4 is a perspective view of an open topped bag having an advertising or coupon strip with removably attached coupons adhered to and disposed on top of a gusset along one side of the bag;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of an open topped bag having an advertising or coupon strip, illustrating advertising on the coupons, with the removably attached coupons heat sealed to the lower seam of the bag and disposed on either of the front and back surfaces of the bag;

5 **Figure 6** is a perspective view of an open topped bag having an advertising or coupon strip, illustrating advertising on the coupons, with the removably attached coupons adhered to and disposed on either of the front and back surfaces of the bag;

Figure 6A is a perspective view of the **Figure 6** bag illustrating several detached coupons and the strip ends attached to the bag;

10 **Figure 7** is a perspective view of a T-shirt style bag having an advertising or coupon strip with removably attached coupons heat sealed to the upper and lower seams of the bag and adhered to and disposed within a gusset along one side of the bag;

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a T-shirt style bag having an advertising or coupon strip with removably attached coupons heat sealed to the upper and lower seams
15 of the bag and adhered to and disposed on top of a gusset along one side of the bag;
Figure 9 is a perspective view of the bag making apparatus for forming the **Figure 1** bags;

Figure 10 is a perspective view of the bag making apparatus for forming the **Figure 2** bags;

20 **Figure 11** is a perspective view of the bag making apparatus for forming the **Figure 3** bags;

Figure 12 is a perspective view of the bag making apparatus for forming the **Figure 4** bags;

Figure 13 is a perspective view of the bag making apparatus for forming the **Figure 5** bags;

Figure 14 is a perspective view of the bag making apparatus for forming the **Figure 6** bags;

5 **Figure 15** is a perspective view of the bag making apparatus for forming the **Figure 7** bags; and

Figure 16 is a perspective view of the bag making apparatus for forming the **Figure 8** bags.

10

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

(1) A plastic shopping bag **10** with promotional strip **14**, as illustrated in **Figure 1** and **1A** may be formed from the following components. A pair of registering front **18** and back **22** walls is provided. The walls **18, 22** are secured together along their side **26, 30** and bottom **34** edges and open across at least a portion of their top **38** edges. The walls **18, 22**, when pulled apart from each other, defining a space **42** into which articles may be placed. At least one of the secured together side edges **26, 30** is gusseted.

A plastic strip **14** is located within the gusset **46**. The strip **14** has a first end **50** and a second end **54** and is of a length **58** not greater than a length **62** of the gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The first end **50** of the strip **14** is heat sealed to the bottom edges **34** of the bag walls **18, 22** and the second end **54** of the strip **14** is adhered in the vicinity of the top

edges **38** of the bag walls **18, 22**. A portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to a remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(2) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figure 1**, the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to the remainder
5 **70** of the strip **14** with at least two perforation lines **72, 76**.

(3) In another variation, as illustrated in **Figure 1**, promotional material **80** is printed upon at least an upper surface **84** or a lower surface **88** of the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends that is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

10 (4) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figures 2** and **2A**, a plastic strip **14** is located along one side **74** of a gusset **46**. The strip **14** has a first end **50** and a second end **54** and is of a length **58** not greater than a length **62** of a gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The first end **50** of the strip **14** is heat sealed to the bottom edges **34** of the bag walls **18, 22** and the second **54** end of the strip **14** is adhered in the vicinity of the top
15 edges **38** of the bag walls **18, 22**. A portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to a remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(5) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figures 2** and **2A**, the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14** with at least two perforation lines **72, 76**.

20 (6) In another variation, as illustrated in **Figures 2** and **2A**, promotional material **80** is printed upon at least an upper surface **84** or a lower surface **88** of the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends that is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(7) In a further variant, as illustrated in **Figure 3**, a plastic strip **14** is located within a gusset **46**. The strip **14** has a first end **50** and a second end **54** and is of a length **58** not greater than a length **62** of a gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The first end **50** of the strip **14** is adhered adjacent the bottom edges **34** of the bag walls **18, 22** and the second
5 end **54** of the strip **14** is adhered in the vicinity of the top edges **38** of the bag walls **18, 22**. A portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to a remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(8) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figure 3**, the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to the remainder
10 **70** of the strip **14** with at least two perforation lines **72, 76**.

(9) In another variation, as illustrated in **Figure 3**, promotional material **80** is printed upon at least an upper surface **84** or a lower surface **88** of the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends that is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

15 (10) In still a further variant, as illustrated in **Figure 4**, a plastic strip **14** is located along one side **74** of a gusset **46**. The strip **14** has a first end **50** and a second end **54** and is of a length **58** not greater than a length **62** of a gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The first end **50** of the strip **14** is adhered adjacent the bottom edges **34** of the bag walls **18, 22** and the second end **54** of the strip **14** is adhered in the vicinity of the top edges **38** of the bag
20 walls **18, 22**. A portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to a remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(11) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figure 4**, the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14** with at least two perforation lines **72, 76**.

(12) In another variation, as illustrated in **Figure 4**, promotional material **80** is
5 printed upon at least an upper surface **84** or a lower surface **88** of the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends that is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(13) In yet a further variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figure 5**, a plastic strip **78** is located upon at least one of the front **18** and back **22** walls between the side
10 edges **26, 30**. The strip **78** has a first end **82** and a second end **86** and is of a length **90** not greater than the length **94** of the walls **18, 22**. The first end **82** of the strip **78** is heat sealed to the bottom edges **34** of the bag walls **18, 22** and the second end **86** of the strip **78** is adhered in the vicinity of the top edges **38** of the bag walls **18, 22**. A portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to a remainder
15 **70** of the strip **14**.

(14) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figure 5**, the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14** with at least two perforation lines **72, 76**.

(15) In another variation, as illustrated in **Figure 5**, promotional material **80** is
20 printed upon at least an upper surface **84** or a lower surface **88** of the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends that is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(16) In another variant, as illustrated in **Figures 6 and 6A**, a plastic strip **78** is located upon at least one of front **18** and back **22** walls between the side edges **26, 30**. The strip **78** has a first end **82** and a second end **86** and is of a length **90** not greater than the length **94** of the walls **18, 22**. The first end **82** of the strip **78** is adhered adjacent the bottom edges **34** of the bag walls **18, 22** and the second end **86** of the strip **78** is adhered in the vicinity of the top edges **38** of the bag walls **18, 22**. A portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **82** and second **86** ends is removably attached to a remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(17) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figures 6 and 6A**, the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **82** and second **86** ends is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14** with at least two perforation lines **72, 76**.

(18) In another variation, as illustrated in **Figures 6 and 6A**, promotional material **80** is printed upon at least an upper surface **84** or a lower surface **88** of the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **82** and second **86** ends that is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(19) In still another variant, as illustrated in **Figure 7**, the secured together first **26** and second **30** side edges are folded inwardly from the front **18** and back **22** walls to form a pair of gussets **46**. The gussets **46** have top **98** and bottom **102** edges. The top edges **38, 98** of the front wall **18**, the back wall **22**, and the gussets **46** terminate in an upper seam **106**. The bottom edges **34, 102** of the front wall **18**, the back wall **22**, and the gussets **46** terminate in a lower seam **110**. The lower seam **110** is perpendicular to the side edges **26, 30** of the front **18** and back **22** walls.

A U-shaped cut-out **114** is located in an upper portion **118** of the bag **10**. The cut-out **114** commences at a first point **122** along the upper seam **106** spaced inwardly from the first side edge **26**. The cut-out **114** extends to a second point **126** along the upper seam **106** spaced inwardly from the second side edge **30**. The cut-out **114** extends
 5 downwardly toward the lower seam **110**, forming an open mouth **130** and a pair of bag handles **134**.

A plastic strip **14** is located within at least one gusset **46**. The strip **14** has a first end **50** and a second end **54** and is of a length **58** not greater than a length **62** of the gusset **46**. The first end **50** of the strip **14** is heat sealed to the lower seam **110** and the second
 10 end **54** of the strip **14** is heat sealed to the upper seam **106**. The strip **14** is adhered to the gusset **46** between the first end **50** and the second end **54** of the strip **14**. A portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to a remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(20) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figure 7**, the portion **66** of the
 15 strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14** with at least two perforation lines **72**, **76**.

(21) In another variation, as illustrated in **Figure 7**, promotional material **80** is printed upon at least an upper surface **84** or a lower surface **88** of the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends that is removably attached to the
 20 remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(22) In a final variant, as illustrated in **Figure 8**, a plastic strip **14** is located upon at least one of the front **18** and back **22** walls above at least one gusset **46**. The strip **14** has a first end **50** and a second end **54** and is of a length **58** not greater than the length **62**

of the gusset **46**. The first end **50** of the strip **14** is heat sealed to the lower seam **110** and the second end **54** of the strip **14** is heat sealed to the upper seam **106**. The strip **14** is adhered to one of the front **18** and back **22** walls above at least one gusset **46** between the first end **50** and the second end **54** of the strip **14**. A portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to a remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

(23) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in **Figure 8**, the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14** with at least two perforation lines **72**, **76**.

(24) In another variation, as illustrated in **Figure 8**, promotional material **80** is printed upon at least an upper surface **84** or a lower surface **88** of the portion **66** of the strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends that is removably attached to the remainder **70** of the strip **14**.

An apparatus **138** for fabricating plastic shopping bags **10**, as illustrated in **Figure 9**, is provided. Each of the bags **10** has closed side **26**, **30** and bottom **34** edges. At least one side edge **26**, **30** is gusseted. The bag **10** has an open top edge **38**. The gusseted side edge **26**, **30** includes an upper wall portion **142** and a lower wall portion **146** in abutment with each other. A plastic strip **14** is located between the upper **142** and lower **146** wall portions of the gusseted side edge **26**, **30**.

The apparatus **138** includes means **150** for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154** that has a plastic strip **14** located in the gusset **46**, in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of

rectangular blanks **166**. A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at the cutting station **158**.

The tubing **154** is cut at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks **166** of a predetermined length. The blade **170** is reciprocable between
5 a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries a heating element **198** on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194**. The heating element **198** serves to heat seal the
10 cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** including its gusset **46** and enclosed plastic strip **14** portion on the first side **186** of the blade **170**.

A vacuum element **206** is located on the blade's **170** second side **190** also adjacent the cutting edge **194** and above the upper wall portion **142** of the gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The vacuum element **206**, when the blade **170** is lowered to its second
15 position **178**, extends to at least one gusset **46** of the tubing **154**. The vacuum element **206** is located adjacent the portion of the blade edge **194** which, upon the blade **170** being lowered to its second position **178**, cuts through the gusset **46**.

An adhesive injector **210** is located adjacent the side edge **212** of the blade **170** and proximate to the portion of the blade edge **194** carrying the vacuum element **206**.
20 Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **154** at the pre-selected points. Means (not shown) are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element **206** when the blade **170** is moved to its second position **178** to cut the tubing **154** and abutting plastic

strip **14**, at which instant the adjacent area of the upper wall portion **142** of the gusset **46** is momentarily raised from its abutment with the plastic strip **14**.

Means (not shown) are provided for activating the adhesive injector **210** momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** between the raised upper wall portion **142** of the gusset **46** and the plastic strip **14** when the vacuum element **206** momentarily lifts the upper wall portion **142**. Means **218** located adjacent the first side **186** of the blade **170** and in line with the raised portion of the gusset **46** are provided, to compress the raised area of the gusset **46** back to the plane of the remaining portion of the cut blank **166** and against the plastic strip **14**.

When the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **154** to cut it transversely, the heating element **198** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** heat-seals the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**, and the vacuum element **206** on the second side **190** of the blade **170** momentarily lifts an area of the upper wall portion **142** of the gusset **46** adjacent (the edge of) the second side **190** of the blade **170**. The adhesive injector **210** then discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** between the raised area of the upper portion of the gusset **46** and the cut end **222** of the plastic strip **14**, following which, upon the raising of the blade **170** to its first position **174**, the adhesive receiving upper edge of the gusset **46** is pressed back down against the cut end **222** of the plastic strip **14** to the plane of the remainder of the cut blank **166**.

In a variant of the apparatus **226**, as illustrated in **Figure 10**, designed for fabricating plastic bags **10** each having an open top edge **38**, at least one gusseted side edge **26**, **30** and a plastic strip **14** located along one side **230** of the gusseted side edge **26**, **30**, the apparatus **226** includes means **150** for moving flattened plastic tubing **154** in a

horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**. The tubing **154** is gusseted along at least one side edge **26, 30** and has a plastic strip **14** located along one side **230** of the gusset **46** of the side edge **26, 30**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks **166**. The blade **170** is reciprocable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries a heating element **198** on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194** and a vacuum element **206** on its second side **190** adjacent the cutting edge **194**.

The heating element **198** serves to heat seal the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** including its gusset **46** and the plastic strip **14** located along one side **230** of the gusseted side edge **26, 30** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**. The vacuum element **206**, when the blade **170** is lowered to its second position **178**, extends to at least one gusset **46** of the tubing **154**. The vacuum element **206** is located adjacent the portion of the blade edge **194** which, upon the blade **170** being lowered to its second position **178**, cuts through the gusset **46** and abutting plastic strip **14**.

An adhesive injector **210** is located adjacent the side edge **212** of the blade **170** and proximate to the portion of the blade edge **194** carrying the vacuum element **206**. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and

second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **154** at the pre-selected points. Means (not shown) are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element **206** when the blade **170** is moved to its second position **178** to cut the tubing **154** and abutting plastic strip **14**, at which instant the cut end **222** of the plastic strip **14** is momentarily raised
5 from the side **230** (edge) of the gusset **46**.

Means (not shown) are provided for activating the adhesive injector **210** momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** between the raised plastic strip **14** and the side **230** of the gusset **46** when the vacuum element **206** raises the strip **14**. Means **218** are provided adjacent the first side **186** of the blade **170** and in line
10 with the raised portion of the strip **14**, to compress the raised upper cut end **222** of the strip **14** to the plane of the cut blank **166**.

When the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **154** to cut it transversely, the heating element **198** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** heat-seals the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** and the plastic strip **14** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**. Next the
15 vacuum element **206** on the second side **190** of the blade **170** momentarily raises the cut end **222** of the plastic strip **14** adjacent (the edge of) the second side **190** of the blade **170**. At this instant, the adhesive injector **210** discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** between the raised cut end **222** of the strip **14** and the side **230** of the gusset **46**, following which, upon the lifting of the blade **170** to its first position **174**, the adhesive
20 receiving cut end **222** of the plastic strip **14** is pressed back down to the plane of the cut blank **166**.

Another variant of the apparatus **234**, as illustrated in **Figure 11**, is designed for fabricating plastic shopping bags **10**. Each of the bags **10** has closed side **26**, **30** and

bottom **34** edges, at least one gusseted side edge **26, 30**, and an open top edge **38**. The gusseted side edge **26, 30** includes an upper wall portion **142** and a lower wall portion **146** in abutment with each other, and a plastic strip **14** located between the upper **142** and lower **146** wall portions of the gusseted side edge **26, 30**.

5 The apparatus **234** includes means **150** for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154** in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**. A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at the cutting station **158** at pre-selected points along
10 the tubing length to produce the series of blanks **166** of a predetermined length. The blade **170** is reciprocable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and
15 carries a heating element **198** on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194**.

The heating element **198** serves to heat seal the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** including its gusset **46** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**. A vacuum element **206** is located on its second side **190** also adjacent the cutting edge **194** and above the upper wall portion **142** of the gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The vacuum element **206**, when the
20 blade **170** is lowered to its second position **178**, extends to the gusset **46** of the tubing **154**. The vacuum element **206** is located adjacent the portion of the blade edge **194** which, upon the blade **170** being lowered to its second position **178**, cuts through the

tubing **154**. An adhesive injector **210** is located adjacent the side edge **212** of the blade **170** and proximate to the portion of the blade edge **194** carrying the vacuum element **206**.

Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **154** at the pre-selected points.

5 Means (not shown) are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element **206** when the blade **170** is moved to its second position **178** to cut the tubing **154** at which instant the adjacent area of the upper wall portion **142** of the gusset **46** is momentarily raised from its abutment with the lower wall portion **146** of the gusset **46**.

Means **238** are provided for inserting a plastic strip **14** of predetermined length
10 into the gusset **46**. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the adhesive injector **210** momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** in at least two locations **242** between the raised upper wall portion **142** of the gusset **46** and the plastic strip **14** when the vacuum element **206** momentarily lifts the upper wall portion **142**. Means **218** are provided adjacent the first side **186** of the blade **170** and in line with the
15 raised upper portion **142** of the gusset **46**, to compress the raised area **142** of the gusset **46** back to the plane of the remaining portion of the cut blank **166** and against the plastic strip **14**.

When the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **154** to cut it transversely, the heating element **198** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** heat-seals the cut edge **202**
20 of the tubing **154** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**, and the vacuum element **206** on the second side **190** of the blade **170** momentarily lifts an area of the upper portion **142** of the gusset **46** adjacent the (edge of the) second side **190** of the blade **170**, a plastic strip **14** of predetermined length is inserted into the gusset **46** and the adhesive injector **210**

discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** between the raised area of the portion **142** of the gusset **46** and at least two locations **242** on the plastic strip **14**. Next, upon the raising of the blade **170** to its first position **174**, the adhesive receiving upper edge of the gusset **46** is pressed back down against the plastic strip **14** to the plane of the remainder
5 of the cut blank **166**.

Yet another variant of the apparatus **246**, as illustrated in **Figure 12**, is designed for fabricating plastic bags **10** each having an open top edge **38**, at least one gusseted side edge **26, 30** and a plastic strip **14** located along one side **230** of the gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The apparatus **246** includes means **150** for moving flattened plastic tubing **154** in a
10 horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**. The tubing **154** is gusseted along at least one side edge **26, 30**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks **166**. The blade **170** is
15 reciprocable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries a heating **198** element on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194**. The heating
20 element **198** serves to heat seal the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** including its gusset **46** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**.

An adhesive injector **210** is located adjacent the side edge **212** of the blade **170**. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and

second 178 positions to effect cutting of the tubing 154 at the pre-selected points. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the adhesive injector 210 momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive 214 at at least two locations 242 along one side 230 of the gusseted side edge 26, 30 of the bag blank 166. Means 250 are provided
5 for locating a plastic strip 14 of a predetermined length along one side 230 of the gusseted side edge 26, 30 of the bag blank 166 over the discharged adhesive 214. Means 218 are provided adjacent the first side 186 of the blade 170 and in line with the plastic strip 14, to compress the strip 14 to the gusseted side edge 26, 30 of the bag blank 166.

When the blade 170 is brought down against the tubing 154 to cut it transversely,
10 the heating 198 element on the first side 186 of the blade 170 heat-seals the cut edge 202 of the tubing 154 on the first side 186 of the blade 170. Next, the adhesive injector 210 discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive 214 at at least two locations 242 along one side 230 of the gusseted side edge 26, 30 of the bag blank 166. Next, a plastic strip 14 of a predetermined length is located along one side 230 of the gusseted side edge 26, 30 of
15 the bag blank 166 over the discharged adhesive 214, and the plastic strip 14 is compressed to the gusseted side edge 26, 30 of the bag blank 166.

Yet another variant of the apparatus 254, as illustrated in Figure 13, is designed for fabricating plastic bags 258 each having an open top edge 38 and a plastic strip 78 disposed upon at least one of the front 18 and back 22 walls between the side edges 26,
20 30. The apparatus 254 includes means 150 for moving flattened plastic tubing 262 in a horizontal plane into a cutting station 158. The station 158 has a horizontal planar blade receiving area 162 over which the flattened tubing 262 is moved to be cut into a series of

rectangular blanks 166. The tubing 262 has a plastic strip 78 disposed upon at least one of the front 18 and back 22 walls between the side edges 26, 30.

A blade 170 is provided for cutting the tubing 262 transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks 166. The blade 170 is
5 reciprocable between a first upper poised position 174, and a second lower cutting position 178 on the planar blade receiving area 162. The blade 170 is of a length 182 at least as great as the width 184 of the tubing 262. The blade 170 has a first side 186 and a second side 190. The blade 170 further has a cutting edge 194 and carries a heating
10 element 198 on its first side 186 adjacent the cutting edge 194 and a vacuum element 206 on its second side 190 adjacent the cutting edge 194. The heating element 198 serves to heat seal the cut edge 202 of the tubing 262 and the plastic strip 78 disposed upon at least one of the front 18 and back 22 walls between the side edges 26, 30 on the first side 186 of the blade 170.

The vacuum element 206, when the blade 170 is lowered to its second position
15 190, extends to the side edges 26, 30 of the tubing 262. The vacuum element 206 is located adjacent the portion of the blade edge 194 which, upon the blade 170 being lowered to its second position 178, cuts through the tubing 262 and abutting plastic strip 78. An adhesive injector 210 is located adjacent the side edge 212 of the blade 170 and proximate to the portion of the blade edge 194 carrying the vacuum element 206. Means
20 (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade 170 between the first 174 and second 178 positions to effect cutting of the tubing 262 at the pre-selected points.

Means (not shown) are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element 206 when the blade 170 is moved to its second position 178 to cut the tubing 262 and

abutting plastic strip **78**, at which instant the cut end **222** of the plastic strip **78** is momentarily raised from either of the front **18** and back **22** walls. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the adhesive injector **210** momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** between the raised plastic strip **78** and either of the front **18** and back **22** walls when the vacuum element **206** raises the strip **78**. Means **218** are provided adjacent the first side **186** of the blade **170** and in line with the raised portion of the strip **78**, to compress the raised upper cut end **222** of the strip **78** to the plane of the cut blank **166**.

When the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **262** to cut it transversely, the heating element **198** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** heat-seals the cut edge **202** of the tubing **262** and the plastic strip **78** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**, and the vacuum element **206** on the second side **190** of the blade **170** momentarily raises the cut end **222** of the plastic strip **78** adjacent the (edge of the) second side **190** of the blade **170**. At this instant, the adhesive injector **210** discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** between the raised cut end **222** of the strip **78** and either of the front **18** and back **22** walls. Next, upon the lifting of the blade **170** to its first position **174**, the adhesive receiving cut end **222** of the plastic strip **78** is pressed back down to the plane of the cut blank **166**.

Still another variant of the apparatus **266**, as illustrated in **Figure 14**, is designed for fabricating plastic bags **258** each having an open top edge **38** and a plastic strip **78** upon at least one of the front **18** and back **22** walls between the side edges **26**, **30**. The apparatus **266** includes means **150** for moving flattened plastic tubing **262** in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving

area **162** over which the flattened tubing **262** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **262** transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks **166**. The blade **170** is reciprocable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the tubing **262**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries a heating element **198** on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194**.

The heating element **198** serves to heat seal the cut edge **202** of the tubing **262** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**. An adhesive injector **210** is located adjacent the side edge **212** of the blade **170**. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **262** at the pre-selected points. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the adhesive injector **210** momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** at at least two locations **242** upon at least one of the front **18** and back **22** walls between the side edges **26, 30** of the bag blank **166**.

Means **270** are provided for locating a plastic strip **78** of a predetermined length upon at least one of the front **18** and back **22** walls between the side edges **26, 30** of the bag blank **166** over the discharged adhesive **214**. Means **218** are provided adjacent the first side **186** of the blade **170** and in line with the plastic strip **78**, to compress the strip **78** to either of the front **18** and back **22** walls of the bag blank **166**.

When the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **262** to cut it transversely, the heating element **198** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** heat-seals the cut edge **202** of the tubing **262** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**. Next, the adhesive injector **210** discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** at at least two locations **242** upon at
5 least one of the front **18** and back **22** walls between the side edges **26, 30** of the bag blank **166**. Next, a plastic strip **78** of a predetermined length is located upon at least one of the front **18** and back **22** walls between the side edges **26, 30** of the bag blank **166** over the discharged adhesive **214**. The plastic strip **78** is then compressed to the wall **18, 22** of the bag blank **166**.

10 A further variant of the apparatus **274**, as illustrated in **Figure 15**, is designed for fabricating plastic bags **278** each having closed side **26, 30** and bottom edges **34**, first and second side gussets **46**, a partially open top edge **38**, and a pair of bag handles **280** terminating at the top edge **38**. The gussets **46** are comprised of an upper wall portion **142** and a lower wall portion **146** in abutment with each other. A plastic strip **14** is
15 located between the upper **142** and lower **146** wall portions of at least one gusset **46**.

The apparatus **274** includes means **150** for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154** having a plastic strip **14** disposed in at least one of the gussets **46**, in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut
20 into a series of rectangular blanks **166**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at the cutting station **158** at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks **166** of a predetermined length. The blade **170** is reciprocatable between a first upper

poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries first **282** and second **286** heating elements on its first **186** and second **190** sides adjacent the cutting edge **194**. The heating elements **282**, **286** serve to heat seal the cut bottom **34** and top edges **38** of the bags **278** including its gussets **46** and enclosed plastic strip **14** (portion) on the first **186** and second **190** sides of the blade **170**.

A vacuum element **206** is located on the second side **190** of the blade **170** and spaced from the second heating element **286** and above the upper wall portion **142** of the gusseted side edge **26**, **30**. The vacuum element **206**, when the blade **170** is lowered to its second position **178**, extends to at least one gusset **46** of the tubing **154**. An adhesive injector **210** is located adjacent the side edge **212** of the blade **170** and proximate to the portion of the blade edge **194** carrying the vacuum element **206**. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **154** at the pre-selected points.

Means (not shown) are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element **206** when the blade **170** is moved to its second position **178** to cut the tubing **154** and abutting plastic strip **14**, at which instant the adjacent area of the upper wall portion **142** of the gusset **46** is momentarily raised from its abutment with the plastic strip **14**. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the adhesive injector **210** momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** in at least two locations between the raised upper wall portion **142** of the gusset **46** and the plastic strip **14** when the vacuum

element **206** momentarily lifts the upper wall portion **142**. Means **218** are provided adjacent the first side **186** of the blade **170** and in line with the raised upper portion **142** of the gusset **46**, to compress the raised area of the gusset **46** back to the plane of the remaining portion of the cut blank **166** and against the plastic strip **14**.

5 Means **290** are provided for cutting a U-shaped cut-out **114** commencing at the sealed top edge **38** of the bag blank **166** and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge **34** of the blank **166**.

When the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **154** to cut it transversely, the heating elements **282**, **286** on the first **186** and second **190** sides of the blade **170** heat
10 seal the cut bottom **34** and top edges **38** of the bags **278** and the plastic strip **14** on the first **186** and second **190** sides of the blade **170**, and the vacuum element **206** on the second side **190** of the blade **170** momentarily lifts an area of the upper portion **142** of the gusset **46** spaced from the (edge of the) second side **190** of the blade. The adhesive injector **210** then discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** in at least two
15 locations between the raised area of the upper portion **142** of the gusset **46** and a portion of the plastic strip **14** between its first **50** and second **54** ends. Next, upon the raising of the blade **170** to its first position **174**, the raised upper portion **142** of the gusset **46** is pressed back down against the plastic strip **14** to the plane of the cut blank **166**, a U-shaped cut-out **114** is then cut in the bag blank **166** commencing at the sealed top edge **38**
20 and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge **34**, thus yielding an open mouth **294** and a pair of bag handles **278**.

Another variant of the apparatus **298**, as illustrated in **Figure 16**, is designed for

fabricating plastic bags **278** each having front **302** and rear **306** outer surfaces, closed side **26,30** and bottom edges **34**, first and second side gussets **46**, a partially open top edge **38**, and a pair of bag handles **280** terminating at the top edge **38**. The gussets **46** are comprised of an upper wall portion **142** and a lower wall portion **146** in abutment with each other. A plastic strip **14** disposed upon at least one of the front **302** and rear **306** outer surfaces above at least one gusset **46**.

The apparatus **298** includes means **150** for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154** in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The tubing **154** has a plastic strip **14** located upon at least one of the front **302** and rear **306** outer surfaces above at least one gusset **46**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at the cutting station **158** at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks **166** of a predetermined length. The blade **170** is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries first **282** and second **286** heating elements on its first **186** and second **190** sides adjacent the cutting edge **194**. The heating elements **282, 286** serve to heat seal the cut bottom **34** and top edges **38** of the bags **278** including its gussets **46** and the plastic strip **14** (portion) on the first **186** and second **190** sides of the blade **170**.

A vacuum element **206** is located on the second side **190** of the blade **170** and spaced from the second heating element **286** and above the upper wall portion **142** of the gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The vacuum element **206**, when the blade **170** is lowered to its second position **178**, extending to at least one gusset **46** of the tubing **154**. An adhesive injector **210** is located adjacent the side edge **212** of the blade **170** and proximate to the portion of the blade **170** (edge) carrying the vacuum element **206**. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **154** at the pre-selected points. Means (not shown) are provided for producing a vacuum in the vacuum element **206** when the blade **170** is moved to its second position **178** to cut the tubing **154** and abutting plastic strip **14**. At this instant a portion of the plastic strip **14** disposed above the gusset **46** is momentarily raised from its abutment with either of the front **302** and rear **306** outer surfaces.

Means (not shown) are provided for activating the adhesive injector **210** momentarily to discharge a pre-selected quantity of adhesive **214** in at least two locations between the raised portion of the plastic strip **14** and either of the front **302** and rear **306** outer surfaces when the vacuum element **206** momentarily lifts the portion of the plastic strip **14**. Means **218** are provided adjacent the first side **186** of the blade **170** and in line with the gusset **46**, to compress the raised portion of the plastic strip **14** back to the plane of the cut blank **166**. Means **290** are provided for cutting a U-shaped cut-out **114** commencing at the sealed top edge **38** of the bag **278** (blank) and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge **34** of the bag **278**.

When the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **154** to cut it transversely, the heating elements **282, 286** on the first **186** and second **190** side of the blade **170** heat

seal the cut bottom 34 and top edges 38 of the bag 278 and the plastic strip 14 on the first 186 and second 190 sides of the blade 170. Next, the vacuum element 206 on the second side 190 of the blade 170 momentarily lifts a portion of the plastic strip 14 spaced from the (edge of the) second side 190 of the blade 170, and the adhesive injector 210

5 discharges a pre-selected quantity of adhesive 214 in at least two locations between the raised portion of the plastic strip 14 between its first 50 and second 54 end and either of the front 302 and 306 rear outer surfaces. Next, upon the raising of the blade 170 to its first position 174, the raised portion of the plastic strip 14 is pressed back down to the plane of the cut blank 166, a U-shaped cut-out 114 is then cut in the bag blank 166

10 commencing at the sealed top edge 38 and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge 34, thus yielding an open mouth 294 and a pair of bag handles 280.

Still another variant of the apparatus 310, as illustrated in **Figure 17**, is designed for fabricating plastic shopping bags 10 each having closed side 26, 30 and bottom 34 edges, at least one gusseted side edge 26, 30, and an open top edge 38. The at least one

15 gusseted side edge 26, 30 is comprised of an upper wall portion 142 and a lower wall portion 146 in abutment with each other, and a plastic strip 14 located between the upper 142 and lower 146 wall portions of the gusseted side edge 26, 30.

The apparatus 310 includes a roll 314 of plastic strip material 318. The strip material 318 has parallel first 322 and second 326 side edges and is mounted in an

20 unwind stand 330. Means 332 are provided for unrolling the roll 314 of plastic strip material 318 from the unwind stand 330. A cold adhesive applicator 334 is provided. The applicator 334 is located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive 338 between the first 322 and second 326 side edges of the plastic strip material

318. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator **334** as the plastic strip material **318** is unrolled from the unwind stand **330**.

Means **342** are provided for opening a gusset **46** in extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154** and feeding the plastic strip material **318** with applied cold adhesive **338** into the gusset **46**. Means **150** are provided for closing the gusset **46** with the plastic strip material **318** located therein and compressing the plastic strip material **318** against the upper wall portion **142** and the lower wall portion **146** of the gusset **46**, thereby adhering the strip material **318** to the upper **142** or lower **146** wall portions.

Means **150** also move the plastic tubing **154** in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**. A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at the cutting station **158** at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks **166** of a predetermined length. The blade **170** is reciprocable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** has a cutting edge **194** and carries a heating element **198** on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194**.

The heating element **198** serves to heat seal the cut edge of the tubing **154** including its gusset **46** and enclosed plastic strip material **318** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the

first **174** and second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **154** at the pre-selected points.

When the plastic strip material **318** is located in the opened gusset **46**, the gusset **46** is then closed and the upper **142** and lower **146** wall portions compressed against the strip material **318**. The blade **170** is then brought down against the tubing **154** to cut it transversely, the heating element **198** on the first side of the blade **170** heat-seals the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** , leaving an openable bag mouth **294** on the second side **190** of the blade **170**. The plastic strip material **318** will thus be heat sealed into the bottom edge **34** of the bag **10** and the strip material **318** will be adhered within the gusset **46**.

A further variant of the apparatus **350**, as illustrated in **Figure 18**, is designed for fabricating plastic bags **10**, each having an open top edge **38**, at least one gusseted side edge **26, 30** and a plastic strip **14** located along one side **230** of the gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The apparatus **350** includes a roll **314** of plastic strip material **318**, the strip material **318** has parallel first **322** and second **326** side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand **330**. Means **332** are provided for unrolling the roll **314** of plastic strip material **318** from the unwind stand **330**. A cold adhesive applicator **334** is provided. The applicator **334** is located to apply a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive **338** between the first **322** and second **326** side edges of the plastic strip material **318**. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator **334** as the plastic strip material **318** is unrolled from the unwind stand **330**.

Means **354** are provided for locating the plastic strip material **318** with applied cold adhesive **338** along one side **230** of a gusseted side edge **26, 30** of extruded flattened

and gusseted plastic tubing 154. Means 150 are provided for compressing the plastic strip material 318 against the tubing 154 thereby adhering the strip material 318 to the tubing 154 adjacent the gusseted side edge 26, 30. Means 150 also move flattened plastic tubing 154 in a horizontal plane into a cutting station 158. The station 158 has a
5 horizontal planar blade receiving area 162 over which the flattened tubing 154 is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks 166.

A blade 170 is provided for cutting the tubing 154 transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks 166. The blade 170 is reciprocable between a first upper poised position 174, and a second lower cutting
10 position 178 on the planar blade receiving area 162. The blade 170 is of a length 182 at least as great as the width 184 of the gusseted tubing 154. The blade 170 has a first side 186 and a second side 190. The blade 170 further has a cutting edge 194 and carries a heating element 198 on its first side 186 adjacent the cutting edge 194. The heating element 198 serves to heat seal the cut edge 202 of the tubing 154 including its gusset 46
15 and the plastic strip material 318 located along one side of the gusseted side edge 26, 30 on the first side 186 of the blade 170. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade 170 between the first 174 and second 178 positions to effect cutting of the tubing 154 at the pre-selected points.

When the plastic strip material 318 is located along one side 230 of the gusseted
20 side edge 26, 30 and the plastic strip material 318 is compressed against the tubing 154 along one side 230 of the gusseted side edge 26, 30 and the blade 170 is brought down against the tubing 154 to cut it transversely, the heating element 198 on the first side 186 of the blade 170 heat-seals the cut edge 202 of the tubing 154 on the first side 186 of the

blade **170**, leaving an openable bag mouth **294** on the second side **190** of the blade **170**, the plastic strip material **318** will be heat sealed into the bottom edge **34** of the bag **10** and the strip material **318** will be adhered above the gusset **46**.

Yet another variant of the apparatus **362**, as illustrated in **Figure 19**, is designed
5 for fabricating plastic shopping bags **10** each having closed side **26, 30** and bottom **34**
edges, at least one gusseted side edge **26, 30**, and an open top edge **38**. The at least one
gusseted side edge **26, 30** is comprised of an upper wall portion **142** and a lower wall
portion **146** in abutment with each other, with a plastic strip **14** located between the upper
142 and lower **146** wall portions of the gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The apparatus **362**
10 includes a roll **314** of plastic strip material **318**. The strip material **318** has parallel first
322 and second **326** side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand **330**. Means **332** are
provided for unrolling the roll **314** of plastic strip material **318** from the unwind stand
330. A cold adhesive applicator **334** is provided. The applicator **334** is located to apply a
continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive **338** between the first **322** and
15 second **326** side edges of the plastic strip material **318**. Means (not shown) are provided
for activating the cold adhesive applicator **334** as the plastic strip material **318** is unrolled
from the unwind stand **330**.

Means **342** are provided for opening a gusset **46** in extruded flattened and
gusseted plastic tubing **154** and inserting plastic strip material **318** of a predetermined
20 length with applied cold adhesive **338** into the gusset **46**. Means **150** are provided for
closing the gusset **46** with the plastic strip material **318** located therein and compressing
the plastic strip material **318** against the upper wall portion **142** and the lower wall

portion **146** of the gusset **46**, thereby adhering the strip material **318** to either of the upper **142** and lower **146** wall portions.

Means **150** also move extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154** in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**. A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at the cutting station **158** at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks **166** of a predetermined length. The blade **170** is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** has a cutting edge **194** and carries a heating element **198** on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194**.

The heating element **198** serves to heat seal the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** including its gusset **46** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **154** at the pre-selected points. When the predetermined length of plastic strip material **318** is located in the opened gusset **46** and the gusset **46** is then closed and the upper **142** and lower **146** wall portions compressed against the strip material **318** and the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **154** to cut it transversely, the heating element **198** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** heat-seals the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**, leaving an openable

bag mouth **294** on the second side **190** of the blade **170**, the plastic strip material **318** will be adhered within the gusset **46**.

Yet a further apparatus **366**, as illustrated in **Figure 20**, is designed for fabricating plastic bags **10** each having an open top edge **38**, at least one gusseted side edge **26, 30** and a plastic strip **14** located along one side **230** of the gusseted side edge **26, 30**. The apparatus **366** includes a roll **314** of plastic strip material **318**. The strip material **318** has parallel first **322** and second **326** side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand **330**. Means **332** are provided for unrolling the roll of plastic strip material **318** from the unwind stand **330**. A cold adhesive applicator **334** is provided. The applicator **334** is located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive **338** between the first **322** and second **326** side edges of the plastic strip material **318**. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator **334** as the plastic strip material **318** is unrolled from the unwind stand **330**.

Means **354** are provided for locating plastic strip material **318** of a predetermined length with applied cold adhesive **338** along one side of a gusseted side edge **26, 30** of extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154**. Means **150** are provided for compressing the plastic strip material **318** against the tubing **154** thereby adhering the strip material **318** adjacent the gusseted side edge **26, 30**. Means **150** also move flattened plastic tubing **154** in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**. The tubing **154** is gusseted along at least one side edge **26, 30**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks **166**. The blade **170** is reciprocable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**, the blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries a heating element **198** on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194**. The heating element **198** serving to heat seal the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** including its gusset **46** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**.

When the plastic strip material **318** is located along one side **230** of the gusseted side edge **26, 30** and the plastic strip material **318** is compressed against the tubing **154** and the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **154** to cut it transversely, the heating element **198** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** heat-seals the cut edge **202** of the tubing **154** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**, leaving an openable bag mouth **294** on the second side **190** of the blade **170**, the plastic strip material **318** will be adhered above the gusset **46**.

Still a further variant of an apparatus **370**, as illustrated in **Figure 21**, is designed for fabricating plastic bags **258** each having an open top edge **38** and a plastic strip **14** located upon at least one of the front **18** and back **22** walls between the side edges **26, 30**. The apparatus **370** includes a roll **314** of plastic strip material **318**. The strip material **318** has parallel first **322** and second **326** side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand **330**. Means **332** are provided for unrolling the roll **314** of plastic strip material **318** from the unwind stand **330**. A cold adhesive applicator **334** is provided. The applicator **334** is

located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive **338** between the first **322** and second **326** side edges of the plastic strip material **318**. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator **334** as the plastic strip material **318** is unrolled from the unwind stand **330**. Means **374** are provided for
 5 locating plastic strip material **318** with applied cold adhesive **338** upon either of front **18** and back **22** walls and between side edges **26, 30** of extruded flattened plastic tubing **262**. Means **150** are provided for compressing the plastic strip material **318** against either the front **18** or back **22** walls thereby adhering the strip material **318** to either of the walls **18, 22**.

10 Means **150** also move flattened plastic tubing **154** in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **262** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **262** transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks **166**. The blade **170** is
 15 reciprocable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the tubing **262**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries a heating element **198** on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194**.

20 The heating element **198** serves to heat seal the cut edge **202** of the tubing **262** and the plastic strip material **318** located upon at least one of the front **18** and back **22** walls between the side edges **26, 30** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**. Means (not

shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade 170 between the first 174 and second 178 positions to effect cutting of the tubing 262 at the pre-selected points.

When the plastic strip material 318 is located upon either of the front 18 and back 22 walls between the side edges 26, 30 of the tubing 262 and the plastic strip material 318 is compressed against the tubing 262 and the blade 170 is brought down against the tubing 262 to cut it transversely, the heating element 198 on the first side 186 of the blade 170 heat-seals the cut edge 202 of the tubing 262 on the first side 186 of the blade 170, leaving an openable bag mouth 294 on the second side 190 of the blade 170, the plastic strip material 318 will be heat sealed into the bottom edge 34 of the bag 258 and the strip material 318 will be adhered to either of the front 18 and back 22 walls.

Another variant of an apparatus 382, as illustrated in Figure 22, is designed for fabricating plastic bags 258 each having an open top edge 38 and a plastic strip upon 14 at least one of the front 18 and back 22 walls between the side edges 26, 30. The apparatus 382 includes a roll 314 of plastic strip material 318. The strip material 318 has parallel first 322 and second 326 side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand 330. Means 332 are provided for unrolling the roll 314 of plastic strip material 318 from the unwind stand 330. A cold adhesive applicator 334 is provided. The applicator 334 is located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive 338 between the first 322 and second 326 side edges of the plastic strip material 318. Means (not shown) for activating the cold adhesive applicator 338 as the plastic strip material 318 is unrolled from the unwind stand 330.

Means 386 are provided for locating plastic strip material 318 of a predetermined length with applied cold adhesive 338 upon either front 18 or back 22 walls and between

side edges **26, 30** of extruded flattened plastic tubing **262**. Means **150** are provided for compressing the plastic strip material **318** against either the front **18** or back **22** walls thereby adhering the strip material **318** to either of the walls **18, 22**. Means **150** also move flattened plastic tubing **262** in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **262** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **262** transversely at pre-selected points along its length to produce the series of blanks **166**. The blade **170** is reciprocable between a first upper poised position **174** , and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the tubing **262**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries a heating element **198** on its first side **186** adjacent the cutting edge **194**. The heating element **198** serves to heat seal the cut edge **202** of the tubing **262** on the first side **186** of the blade **170**.

When the plastic strip material **318** is located upon either of the front **18** and back **22** walls between the side edges **26, 30** and the plastic strip material **318** is compressed against the tubing **262** and the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **262** to cut it transversely, the heating element **198** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** heat-seals the cut edge **202** of the tubing **262** on the first side **186** of the blade **170** , leaving an openable bag mouth **294** on the second side **190** of the blade **170**, the plastic strip material **318** will be adhered to either of the front **18** and back **22** walls.

Still another variant of an apparatus **394**, as illustrated in **Figure 23**, is designed for fabricating plastic shopping bags **278** each having closed side **26**, **30** and bottom edges **34**, first and second side gussets **46**, a partially open top edge **38**, and a pair of bag handles **280** terminating at the top edge **38**. The gussets **46** are comprised of an upper wall portion **142** and a lower wall portion **146** in abutment with each other. A plastic strip **14** is located between the upper **142** and lower **146** wall portions of at least one gusset **46**.

The apparatus **394** includes a roll **314** of plastic strip material **318**. The strip material **318** has parallel first **322** and second **326** side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand **330**. Means **332** are provided for unrolling the roll **314** of plastic strip material **318** from the unwind stand **330**. A cold adhesive applicator **334** is provided. The applicator **334** is located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive **338** between the first **322** and second **336** side edges of the plastic strip material **318**. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator **334** as the plastic strip material **318** is unrolled from the unwind stand **330**. Means **342** are provided for opening a gusset **46** in extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154** and feeding the plastic strip material **318** with applied cold adhesive **338** into the gusset **46**. Means **150** are provided for closing the gusset **46** with the plastic strip material **318** located therein and compressing the plastic strip material **318** against the upper wall portion **142** and the lower wall portion **146** of the gusset **46**, thereby adhering the strip material **318** to either of the upper **142** and lower **146** wall portions.

Means **150** also move extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154** having plastic strip material **318** located in at least one of the gussets **46**, in a horizontal plane

into a cutting station **158**. The station **158** has a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at the cutting station **158** at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks **166** of a predetermined length. The blade **170** is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries first **282** and second **286** heating elements on its first **186** and second **190** sides adjacent the cutting edge **194**.

The heating elements **282**, **286** serve to heat seal the cut bottom **34** and top **38** edges of the bag **278** including its gussets **46** and enclosed plastic strip material **318** on the first **186** and second **190** sides of the blade. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **154** at the pre-selected points. Means **290** are provided for cutting a U-shaped cut-out **114** commencing at the sealed top edge **38** of the bag blank **166** and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge **34** of the blank **166**.

When the plastic strip material **318** is located in the opened gusset **46** and the gusset **46** is then closed and the upper **142** and lower **146** wall portions compressed against the strip material **318** and when the blade **170** is brought down against the tubing **154** to cut it transversely, the heating elements **282**, **286** on the first **186** and second **190** sides of the blade **170** heat seal the cut bottom **34** and top **38** edges of the bag **278** and the

plastic strip material **318** on the first **186** and second **190** sides of the blade **170**, the plastic strip material **318** will be heat sealed into the top **38** and bottom **34** edges of the bag **278** and the strip material **318** will be adhered within the gusset **46**, a U-shaped cut-out **114** is then cut in the bag blank **166** commencing at the sealed top edge **38** and
5 extending downwardly toward the bottom edge **34** , thus yielding an open mouth **294** and a pair of bag handles **280**.

A final variant of an apparatus **398**, as illustrated in **Figure 24**, is designed for fabricating plastic shopping bags **278** each having front **302** and rear **306** outer surfaces, closed side **26, 30** and bottom edges **34**, first and second side gussets **46**, a partially open
10 top edge **38**, and a pair of bag handles **280** terminating at the top edge **38**. The gussets **46** are comprised of an upper wall portion **142** and a lower wall portion **146** in abutment with each other, and a plastic strip **14** located upon at least one of the front **302** and rear **306** outer surfaces above at least one gusset **46**.

The apparatus **398** includes a roll **314** of plastic strip material **318**. The strip
15 material **318** has parallel first **322** and second **326** side edges and is mounted in an unwind stand **330**. Means **332** are provided for unrolling the roll **314** of plastic strip material **318** from the unwind stand **330**. A cold adhesive applicator **334** is provided. The applicator **334** is located to apply either a continuous or non-continuous bead of cold adhesive **338** between the first **322** and second **326** side edges of the plastic strip material
20 **318**. Means (not shown) are provided for activating the cold adhesive applicator **334** as the plastic strip material **318** is unrolled from the unwind stand **330**.

Means **402** are provided for locating the plastic strip material **318** with applied cold adhesive **338** along one side **230** of a gusseted side edge **26, 30** of extruded flattened

and gusseted plastic tubing **154**. Means **358** are provided for compressing the plastic strip material **318** against the tubing thereby adhering the strip material **318** adjacent the gusseted side edge **26, 30**.

Means **150** are provided for moving extruded flattened and gusseted plastic tubing **154** having plastic strip material **318** located upon at least one of the front **302** and rear **306** outer surfaces above at least one gusset **46**, in a horizontal plane into a cutting station **158**, the station having a horizontal planar blade receiving area **162** over which the flattened tubing **154** is moved to be cut into a series of rectangular blanks **166**.

A blade **170** is provided for cutting the tubing **154** transversely at the cutting station **158** at pre-selected points along the tubing length to produce the series of blanks **166** of a predetermined length. The blade **170** is reciprocatable between a first upper poised position **174**, and a second lower cutting position **178** on the planar blade receiving area **162**. The blade **170** is of a length **182** at least as great as the width **184** of the gusseted tubing **154**. The blade **170** has a first side **186** and a second side **190**. The blade **170** further has a cutting edge **194** and carries first **282** and second **286** heating elements on its first **186** and second **190** sides adjacent the cutting edge **194**. The heating elements **282, 286** serves to heat seal the cut bottom **34** and top **38** edges of the bag **278** including its gussets **46** and the plastic strip material **318** on the first **186** and second **190** sides of the blade **190**. Means (not shown) are provided for reciprocating the blade **170** between the first **174** and second **178** positions to effect cutting of the tubing **154** at the pre-selected points.

Means **290** are provided for cutting a U-shaped cut-out **114** commencing at the sealed top edge **38** of the bag blank **166** and extending downwardly toward the bottom

edge 34 of the blank 166. When the plastic strip material 318 is located above the gusset 46 and the plastic strip material 318 is then compressed against the tubing 154 and when the blade 170 is brought down against the tubing 154 to cut it transversely, the heating elements 282, 286 on the first 186 and second 190 sides of the blade 170 heat seal the cut bottom 34 and top 38 edges of the bag 278 and the plastic strip material 318 on the first 186 and second 190 sides of the blade 170, the plastic strip material 318 will be heat sealed into the top 38 and bottom 34 edges of the bag 278 and the strip material 318 will be adhered above the gusset 46, a U-shaped cut-out 114 is then cut in the bag blank 166 commencing at the sealed top edge 38 and extending downwardly toward the bottom edge 34, thus yielding an open mouth 130 and a pair of bag handles 280.

The plastic shopping bags 10, 278 with promotional strip ad and method and apparatus for making same have been described with reference to particular embodiments. Other modifications and enhancements can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the claims that follow.